

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W
----- 031395/41

R 161746Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4126
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 21156

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: MORE SPD VIEWS

REFS: (A) BONN 20746 DTG 091742Z DEC 76
(B) BONN 18998 DTG 091859Z NOV 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: A LEADING SPD EXPERT ON MBFR, PAWEŁ-CZYK, HAS INDICATED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD PREVIOUSLY BY SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT. HE ALSO THOUGHT THE CURRENT WESTERN ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTION APPROACH WAS "PSYCHOLOGICALLY TOO DEMANDING" OF THE EAST AND WAS SKEPTICAL THE UPCOMING DATA DISCUSSION WOULD LEAD TO MEANINGFUL RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SPD BUNDESTAG DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALFONS PAWELCZYK TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON DECEMBER 13 HE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY

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ADDITIONAL INSIGHT INTO WHAT SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT HAD ALREADY SAID ABOUT MBFR (REFTELS), BUT THAT HE SHARED BRANDT'S VIEW THAT THE TALKS MUST BE RAISED ABOVE THE EXPERT LEVEL. AS PAWELCZYK SAW IT, THE FUNCTION OF THE POLITICIANS IN THE VARIOUS NATO CAPITALS WAS TO SET POLITICAL LIMITS WITHIN WHICH THE NEGOTIATORS WOULD

OPERATE.

2. REGARDING THE ALLIANCE POSITION, PAWELCZYK SAID HE THOUGHT THE ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL WAS "PSYCHOLOGICALLY TOO DEMANDING" OF THE EAST. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE TABLING BY THE EAST OF FIGURES REPRESENTED A SIGNAL TO THE WEST THAT THERE WAS APPROXIMATE PARITY OF FORCES IN THE REDUCTIONS AREA.

3. PAWELCZYK EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE DATA DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT REALLY LEAD ANYWHERE. THERE WAS NO WAY FOR ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER TO PROVE OR DISPROVE THE FIGURES TABLED. IN THE END, ONE MUST MAKE A POLITICAL DECISION TO ACCEPT THE FIGURES OR NOT. HE SAID THIS ALSO APPLIED TO VERIFYING AN MBFR AGREEMENT IN WHICH THE WEST MUST DECIDE WHAT WAS POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE.

4. PAWELCZYK SAID FURTHER THAT THE EAST HAD A POINT ABOUT CIVILIANS WORKING IN WESTERN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL RECRUITING OFFICES IN THE FRG WHICH WERE STAFFED BY CIVILIANS, NOTING THAT SUCH OFFICES WERE STAFFED BY SOLDIERS DURING THE THIRD REICH. HE INDICATED THAT, IN THE EAST, SOLDIERS PERFORMED MANY FUNCTIONS TO WHICH CIVILIANS WERE ASSIGNED IN THE WEST.

5. PAWELCZYK SAID THE PEOPLE IN THE FRG KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT MBFR COULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS AS FOLLOWS: THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE NEGOTIATIONS, THOSE WHO DID NOT, AND THOSE WHO ONLY SAID THEY SUPPORTED THEM.

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HE CONTINUED THAT THE MOST DANGEROUS PEOPLE WERE FOUND IN THE LAST GROUP. PAWELCZYK COMMENTED HE DID NOT WANT TO SAY WHAT POSITIONS SUCH PEOPLE OCCUPIED IN THE FRG.

6. UNDER THE HEADLINE "SPD IN FAVOR OF MBFR CONCESSIONS," THE DECEMBER 16 EDITION OF "DIE WELT" REPORTED THAT PAWELCZYK HAD PUBLICLY SUPPORTED BRANDT'S EARLIER PROPOSALS FOR SYMBOLIC CUTS OF U.S. AND SOVIET FORCES TO BE FOLLOWED BY LIMITATIONS ON NATIONAL FORCES. PAWELCZYK ALSO REFUTED ALOIS MERTES' (CDU) CHARGE THAT BRANDT'S PROPOSALS REPRESENTED A "SECURITY RISK." INSTEAD, IN PAWELCZYK'S VIEW, THEY SIGNIFIED AN "ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE PROCESS OF DETENTE."

7. COMMENT: PAWELCZYK, A BUNDESWEHR OFFICER SERVING IN THE BUNDESTAG, IS ONE OF THE BEST INFORMED SPD POLITICIANS ON MBFR MATTERS. HE HAS VISITED VIENNA AND HAS SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO EASTERN DELEGATION MEMBERS

ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS

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WITH GERMAN MBFR OFFICIALS AND WAS AWARE OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FRENCH DATA PROBLEM.

PAWELCZYK UNDOUBTEDLY CONSIDERS HIMSELF ONE OF THOSE GERMANS WHO IS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN HAVING THE TALKS REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. WE SUSPECT HE MAY HAVE HAD FONMIN GENSCHER IN MIND WHEN HE REFERRED TO THOSE OCCUPYING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS WHO, IN REALITY, OPPOSED THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE SPD GENERALLY TAKES A LESS THAN SANGUINE VIEW OF GENSCHER'S HANDLING OF BERLIN POLICY IN PARTICULAR AND EASTERN POLICY IN GENERAL.

PAWELCZYK'S PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR BRANDT'S PROPOSALS COMES ON THE SAME DAY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT DECLARATION. THE DECLARATION REAFFIRMS THE FRG'S SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE'S "COMMONLY DEVELOPED GOALS"

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IN MBFR AND PLEDGES ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR WORKING OUT
"CONSTRUCTIVE AND CONTINUING" STEPS FOR REDUCING THE
MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IT REMAINS TO
BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHAT THE SPD MAY HAVE IN MIND TO SEEK
TO ALTER THE FRG APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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